(d) BRPSE has considered and recommended revival plan of HMT (Bearings) Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL) and HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Government have approved revival plan of HMT (Bearings) and Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL).

Statement

Performance of HMT Ltd. and its Subsidiaries

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl.	Name of CPSE	Performance in terms of profitability during		
		2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
1.	HMT Ltd.	5.98	-7.97	-34.41
2.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	-11.08	-10.35	-10.56
3.	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	-25.23	-21.92	-6.31
4.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	-73.80	-119.08	-102.17
5.	HMT Watches Ltd.	-134.53	-134.81	-112.92
6.	HMT (International) Ltd.	0.01	0.04	0.20
7.	Praga Tools Ltd.	-34.39	16.04	-37.50

LPG coverage in Uttar Pradesh

2330. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: (a) the percentage of population of Uttar Pradesh being served by LPG as on 1st January, 2006;

(b) by when entire population in cities and towns with a population of upto five thousand and more in the State are likely to be covered by LPG; and

(c) the details of plans formulated by Government oil companies for achieving the above objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 1.1.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 1135 distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 89.93 lakhs LPG customers covering 35.09% population of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c)'OMC supply domestic LPG through their distribution network and have the freedom to set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances. In

view of this, it is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships. Government has advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas in the country.

As on 1.1.2006, OMCs had set up 1063 and 1163 distributorships in rural and urban-rural areas respectively in the country. OMCs have taken steps such as introducing 5 kg cylinders and setting up community kitchens to enhance the use of LPG in uncovered areas. OMCs have also finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

Introduction of 5 KG Cylinders

† 2331.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce 5 kg. cylinders keeping in view the difficulty in carrying load in hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, whether the light weight cylinders had been introduced; and

(c) whether such cylinders have proved effective and they are still in use or their use has been discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have introduced 5 Kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August, 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas on account of convenience in transportation. 5 kg cylinders are still in use, and as on 1.1.2006, there are 2.98 lakh LPG customers of such cylinders.

Distribution of Kerosene

2332. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a policy for the distribution of kerosene to the poor sections of the society;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.